

MEETING DATE:	November 14 th , 2023
PREPARED BY:	Chris Whittaker
AGENDA CONTENT:	Decision to Apply for FEMA Drainage Improvement Funding for Henderson Road
AGENDA ITEM SECTION:	Regular Agenda
BUDGETED AMOUNT:	\$0 FUNDS REQUESTED: \$0 at this time
FUND:	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:	

Background

KSA Engineers to present an opportunity to pursue FEMA funding for the design and construction of the Drainage components of the Henderson Road improvements.

As Council may be aware, the city is actively pursuing funding for the roadway, drainage, and sidewalk improvements along Henderson Road between Velasco and Mulberry. The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is currently reviewing and hopefully allocating federal funding for the project in the near future. However, those funds will not be expendable until that process is complete and the city has a funding agreement.

The current opportunity is for federal funding through FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, which will be overseen by the Texas Water Development Board Staff at the state level. The drainage report that was completed recently for Henderson Road estimates the cost of the needed drainage improvements at approximately \$16 Million (escalated for inflation). These improvements must be completed prior to the expansion of the road into a 4-lane divided throughfare. Essentially, the improvement involves constructing a storm drain system that replaces the open channel along the north side of Henderson Road.

The program would involve a local match, anywhere from 10% to 25%, (or approximately \$1.6 to \$4 Million local match) depending on various scoring factors that may not be known until FEMA completes their evaluation and offers the city a draft agreement. It is most likely that the city would fall into the 25% local match category.

Council Request

The request to Council is to authorize Staff to assemble application with assistance from KSA. KSA is offering to assist the city with this application at no cost.

Timeline and Local Funding

TWDB has set the following state-level timeline for the application process:

Now through January 8^{th,} **2024:** TWDB accepts draft submittals through FEMA-GO system (online grant management system)

However, the intent is to submit before the end of the year to offer TWDB a better chance to review the application and maximize technical assistance.

January 8 - February 22nd: TWDB conducts administrative and technical reviews

February 26: TWDB submits applications to FEMA

Fall 2024: Awardees are announced, and Contracts w/TWDB are processed

The estimated high-level timeline for the project itself would be as follows (may change):

2025: Planning, Environmental and Design

2026: Construction

This means that local funding needs to likely be available in 2025 for design, and in 2026 for construction. However, the exact terms and timeline will be presented to the city for consideration of acceptance. <u>Applying</u> for funds does not obligate the city to <u>sign</u> agreement terms that are found to be unacceptable.

Included Exhibits

- Drainage Improvement Exhibit
- FMA Program Fact Sheet